



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,919	07/14/2003	Aaron Cornelius	03797.00558	7973
28319	7590	09/11/2006	EXAMINER	
BANNER & WITCOFF LTD., ATTORNEYS FOR CLIENT NOS. 003797 & 013797 1001 G STREET, N.W. SUITE 1100 WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597			CHOU, ANDREW Y	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2192		
DATE MAILED: 09/11/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<i>Office Action Summary</i>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/618,919	CORNELIUS ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andrew Y. Chou	2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-30 have been examined. Claims 1, 18, 24, 29, and 30 are the independent claims. The priority date recognized for this application is 07/14/2003.

Oath/Declaration

2. The Office acknowledges receipt of a properly signed oath/declaration filed on 07/14/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Okita et al. US 6,225,998 B1 (hereinafter Okita).

Claim 1:

Okita discloses a method of alerting a user to configuration errors of shapes representing software artifacts and displayed on a visual design surface, the method comprising:

- (a) displaying an icon next to a shape to represent at least one configuration error associated with the shape (see for example column 15, lines 48-66, FIG. 5, item 504, and related text); and
- (b) in response to a user selecting the icon, displaying at least one proposed solution to a configuration error (see for example column 7, lines 27-31, column 15, lines 48-66)).

Claim 2:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, further including:

- (c) comparing shape configuration parameters of the shape to configuration parameter rules (see for example column 5, lines 41-51).

Claim 3:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the configuration parameter rules are selected based on a context in which the shape is being used (see for example column 5, lines 26-41).

Claim 4:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 2, wherein (c) is performed after (a) and further including:

- (d) removing the icon when the configuration error no longer exists (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 5:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 2, wherein (c) is repeated periodically (see for example column 5, lines 41-51).

Claim 6:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 5, wherein (c) is repeated when at least one configuration parameter of the shape changes (see for example column 5, lines 41-51).

Claim 7:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 6, wherein (c) is repeated when at least one configuration parameter of a shape other than the shape in (a) changes (see for example column 5, lines 41-51).

Claim 8:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises a dialog box (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 9:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 8, wherein the dialog box prompts a user to initialize a variable (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 10:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 8, wherein the dialog box prompts a user to set a configuration parameter (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 11:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises a wizard (see for example FIG. 3, item 302, and related text)

Claim 12:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises creating a new design element (see for example column 5 line 57- column 6, line 4).

Claim 13:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises adding a shape (see for example column 6, lines 58-65).

Claim 14:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one configuration error comprises a necessary shape that is not connected to the shape in (a) (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 15:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one configuration error comprises configuration parameters set in an inconsistent manner (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 16:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 15, wherein the inconsistent configuration parameters are configuration parameters of the same shape (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 17:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 15, wherein the inconsistent configuration parameters are configuration parameters of at least two shapes (see for example column 15, lines 2- 14).

Claim 18:

Okita discloses a method of alerting a user of configuration errors of shapes representing software artifacts and displayed on a visual design surface, the method comprising:

(a) displaying an icon next to a container shape to represent at least one configuration error with respect to a shape contained within the container shape (see for example column 15, lines 48-66, FIG. 5, item 504, and related text); and

(b) in response to a user selecting the icon, displaying at least one proposed solution to the configuration error (see for example column 7, lines 27-31, column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 19:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 18, further including:

(c) expanding the container shape to display at least the shape contained within the container shape (see for example column 15, lines 23-32); and

(d) displaying the icon next to a shape contained within the container shape and that contains the at least one configuration error (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 20:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 18, wherein the at least one configuration error comprises a necessary shape that is not connected to the shape contained within the container shape (see for example column 15 lines 48-66).

Claim 21:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 18, wherein the at least one configuration error comprises configuration parameters set in an inconsistent manner (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 22:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 21, wherein the inconsistent configuration parameters are configuration parameters of the same shape (see for example column 11, lines 53-61).

Claim 23:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 21, wherein the inconsistent configuration parameters are configuration parameters of at least two shapes (see for example column 11, lines 53-61).

Claim 24:

Okita discloses a method of alerting a user of configuration errors of shapes representing software artifacts and displayed on a visual design surface, the method comprising:

- (a) comparing shape configuration parameters of a shape to configuration parameter rules to identify configuration errors (see for example column 15, lines 48-64);
- (b) determining a common error that causes the identified configuration errors (see for example column 15, lines 48-64);
- (c) displaying an icon next to a shape to represent the configuration errors (see for example column 15, lines 48-64, FIG. 5, item 504, and related text); and
- (d) in response to a user selecting the icon, displaying at least one proposed solution to the common error (see for example column 15, lines 48-64).

Claim 25:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 24, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises setting a configuration parameter (see for example column 5, lines 26-41).

Claim 26:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 24, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises creating a new design element (see for example column 5 line 57- column 6, line 4).

Claim 27:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 24, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises adding a shape (see for example column 6, lines 58-65).

Claim 28:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 24, wherein the common error comprises a necessary shape that is not connected to the shape in (a) (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 29:

Okita discloses in a computer system (see for example FIG. 1, and related text) having a graphical user interface including a display and a user interface selection device, a method of indicating configuration errors of elements displayed on a visual design surface and representing software artifacts, the method comprising:

(a) displaying a plurality of the elements on the design surface (see for example FIG. 4, and related text);

- (b) displaying an icon next to an element to identify a configuration error associated with the element (see for example column 15, lines 48-66); and
- (c) in response to a command from the interface selection device, displaying at least one proposed solution to the configuration error (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 30:

Okita discloses a computer readable medium (see for example FIG. 1, and related text) containing computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to perform the steps comprising:

- (a) displaying on a design surface a plurality of shapes representing software artifacts (see for example FIG. 4, and related text);
- (b) displaying an icon next to a shape to represent at least one configuration error associated with the shape (see for example FIG. 5, item 504, and related text); and
- (c) in response to a user selecting the icon, displaying at least one proposed solution to a configuration error (see for example column 15, lines 48-64).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Y. Chou whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 2192

(571) 272-6829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam, can be reached on (571) 272-3695.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed tot eh TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272 2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

AYC



TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER